

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUALA 04578 170347Z

14

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 L-03 H-03 SS-20 NSC-10

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R 161006Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5467

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KUALA LUMPUR 4578

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, MY

SUBJECT: PANAM CARGO SERVICE

REF: STATE 202461; KUALA LUMPUR 4563

1. SUMMARY: EMBASSY DISCUSSED PANAM REQUEST FOR SECOND WEEKLY CARGO FLT WITH DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL, MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS ON 16 OCT. HE SUGGESTS MEETING WITH MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS, WHO RETURNING KUALA LUMPUR 18 OCT; EMBASSY SEEKING APPOINTMENT WITH MINISTER 19 OR 20 OCT. HAVE ADVISED PANAM REP, SINGAPORE OF CURRENT SITUATION. ALSO REQUESTED HE OBTAIN INFO FROM PANAM ON PRESENT AND PROJECTED LOAD FACTORS OF CARGO SERVICE TO KUALA LUMPUR. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBASSY DISCUSSED PANAM REQUEST FOR SECOND WEEKLY CARGO FLT TO KUALA LUMPUR ON 16 OCT WITH DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL, IBRAHIM MAHMUD, DEPSEC GEN IN MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS, WHO IS GOM OFFICIAL DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR CIVAIR AND WILL LEAD TALKS WITH US ON REVISING CIVAIR AGREEMENT.

3. EMBASSY REQUESTED GOM AUTHORIZE IMMEDIATELY SECOND WEEKLY PANAM CARGO FLT SO THAT SERVICE CAN COMMENCE 28 OCT. ARGUING THAT 2ND FLT SHOULD NOT BE DELAYED BY CONSULTATION EMBASSY
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PAGE 02 KUALA 04578 170347Z

POINTED OUT THAT (A) SECOND WEEKLY FLT IS EXTENSION OF EXISTING SERVICE; (B) PANAM CARGO SERVICE DOES NOT COMPETE WITH MALAYSIAN AIRLINES; AND (C) CARGO (MOSTLY FROM US FIRMS) SENT TO AND FROM K.L. VIA PANAM WOULD OTHERWISE BE ROUTED VIA SINGAPORE.

4. IBRAHIM ACCEPT ARGUMENTS AS SOUND AND SAID REQUEST SEEMED REASONABLE. SAID NO DECISION COULD BE MADE UNTIL DISCUSSED WITH MINISTER, WHO RETURNING KUALA LUMPUR 18 OCT, AND SUGGESTED EMBASSY MEET WITH MINISTER. EMBASSY SEEKING MEETING WITH MINISTER 19 OR 20 OCT.

5. EMBASSY HAS ADVISED PANAM LOCAL REP, ARTHUR WEE, IN SINGAPORE. ALSO REQUESTED HE OBTAIN DATA FROM PANAM ON PRESENT AND PROJECTED LOAD FACTORS, INCLUDING ONLOAD AND OFFLOAD EACH ROUTE STOP, NAMES OF PRINCIPAL CUSTOMERS, AND FORECASTS ON FUTURE CARGO TRAFFIC.

6. COMMENT: IN VIEW OF MALAYSIAN REQUEST FOR REVIEW OF AGREEMENT EMBASSY BELIEVES APPROACH AND ARGUMENTS OUTLINED ABOVE HAVE BEST CHANCE ACHIEVING DESIRED RESULTS, I.E., AUTHORIZATION OF SECOND WEEKLY CARGO FLT FOR PANAM. EMBASSY INTENDS PRESENT SIMILAR ARGUMENTS TO MINISTER BACKED BY INFO SUPPLIED BY PANAM. EMBASSY WILL KEEP DEPARTMENT AND PANAM REP ADVISED.

CHESLAW

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